

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An implant for implantation in a human body comprising an outer shell of a resorbable matrix material and an inner fluid core, the implant being formed to fit the shape and size of a cavity in the human body, the implant being installed for supporting tissue surrounding the cavity and allowing in-growth of fibrous tissue into and replacing the outer shell.
2. The implant of claim 1, wherein the inner fluid core is resorbable.
3. The implant of claim 2, wherein the core is filled with autologous material.
4. The implant of claim 1, wherein the resorbable matrix material is elastically compressible.
5. The implant of claim 1, wherein the resorbable matrix material is formed from one of a self-expanding foam, a compressible foam or sponge, and a non-compressible foam or sponge.
6. The implant of claim 1, wherein the outer shell further comprises a non-resorbable material.
7. The implant of claim 1, wherein the outer shell is formed of a foamed bioabsorbable protein.

8. The implant of claim 1, wherein the outer shell is formed of a foamed collagen.

9. The implant of claim 1, further comprising at least one medicinal, therapeutic, or diagnostic substance.

10. The implant of claim 9, wherein the at least one substance is selected from the group consisting of radiation materials, antibiotics, chemotherapeutics, cancer therapeutics, hemostatic materials, hormone therapeutics, and radiographic markers.

11. The implant of claim 1, wherein the core includes a saline solution.

12. The implant of claim 1, further comprising a resorbable inner shell surrounding the inner core, and a supply of fluid disposed between the inner shell and the outer shell.

13. The implant of claim 1, wherein the outer shell is adjacent the inner core.

14. The implant of claim 1, wherein the outer shell completely surrounds the inner core.

15. An implant for implantation in a human body comprising an outer shell of a resorbable material comprising collagen, the implant being formed to fit the shape and size of a cavity in the human body, the implant supporting tissue surrounding the cavity upon implantation and allowing for in-growth of fibrous tissue into and replacing the outer shell, and a resorbable core provided inside and surrounded by the outer shell and containing autologous material.

16. The implant of claim 15, wherein the core is partially enclosed by a nonabsorbable material.

17. A breast implant comprising a matrix of collagen material, the matrix having a porous structure for supporting surrounding tissue of a breast and configured to provide a framework for the in-growth of fibrous tissue into the matrix.

18. The breast implant of claim 17, wherein the matrix comprises a foam.

19. The breast implant of claim 17, wherein the matrix comprises a resilient framework for implantation by compressing the matrix into a smaller volume, the matrix expanding resiliently within the breast.

20. The breast implant of claim 17, wherein the matrix is self-expanding.

21. A method for replacing excised human breast tissue with an implant comprising the steps of:

forming a cavity having surrounding tissue within a breast;

forming the implant entirely of resorbable material comprising collagen and sizing the implant to occupy the cavity; and

implanting the implant in the cavity, the implant supporting the surrounding tissue and allowing for in-growth of fibrous tissue into and replacing the resorbable material, wherein the resorbable material is elastically compressible, and the step of implanting includes the step of compressing the resorbable material.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of introducing into the implant at least one of a medicinal, therapeutic or diagnostic substance.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the at least one substance is selected from the group consisting of radiation material, antibiotics, chemotherapies, cancer therapies, hemostatic material, hormone therapies, stem cells, cellular precursors, and radiographic markers.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein the step of implanting the implant in the cavity comprises expanding the implant within the cavity.

25. A method for replacing excised human breast tissue with an implant comprising the steps of:

forming a cavity having surrounding tissue within a breast;

forming an implant entirely of resorbable material and sizing the implant to occupy the cavity; and

implanting the implant in the cavity, the implant supporting the surrounding tissue and allowing for in-growth of fibrous tissue into and replacing the resorbable material, wherein the resorbable material is formed from a self-expanding foam and the step of implanting is performed by injection of the self-expanding foam.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of introducing into the implant at least one of a medicinal, therapeutic or diagnostic substance.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the at least one substance is selected from the group consisting of radiation material, antibiotics, chemotherapies, cancer therapies, hemostatic material, hormone therapies, stem cells, cellular precursors, and radiographic markers.